

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1 – 36 (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A percutaneous guidance catheter system, comprising:

an elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end and a first lumen therebetween;

~~an expandable filter having a proximal edge attached to the elongate member and a distal edge extending distal of the distal end of the elongate member, the proximal edge of the expandable filter being attached to the elongate member proximally of the distal end; and~~

an expandable filtration assembly having an expanded configuration that defines a distally facing cavity, the expandable filtration assembly being attached to the elongate member proximally of the distal end of the elongate member and extending distally beyond the distal end of the elongate member, the cavity including a gap between the distal end of the elongate member and the expandable filtration assembly, the gap extending longitudinally both distally and proximally from the distal end and extending radially from the distal end; and

a therapeutic catheter at least partially disposed in the first lumen of the elongate member.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the therapeutic catheter is an ablation device.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the ablation device is configured to ablate ectopic foci.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the ablation device comprises a thermal ablation device.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the ablation device comprises a laser ablation device.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the ablation device comprises a microwave ablation device.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the ablation device comprises a cryogenic ablation device.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the elongate member further comprises a second lumen extending from the distal end.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the second lumen is an aspiration lumen.

46. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the ~~filter~~ expandable filtration assembly surrounds the therapeutic catheter.

47. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment, comprising the steps of:
~~providing a percutaneous guidance catheter system having an elongate member having a proximal end, a distal end and a lumen therebetween, an expandable filter disposed on the elongate member having a proximal edge attached to the elongate member and a distal edge distal the distal end of the elongate member, and a therapeutic catheter at least partially disposed in the lumen of the elongate member, the proximal edge of the expandable filter being attached to the elongate member proximally of the distal end;~~

providing the percutaneous guidance catheter system of claim 37;

inserting the catheter system into a vessel;

positioning the ~~filter~~ expandable filtration assembly near a region of interest;

expanding the ~~filter~~ expandable filtration assembly; and

using the therapeutic catheter on the region of interest.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the step of expanding the ~~filter~~ expandable filtration assembly includes the step of sealing the ~~filter~~ expandable filtration assembly against a wall of the vessel.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the region of interest is an ectopic foci and the step of using the therapeutic catheter includes the step of ablating the ectopic foci.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of capturing necrosed tissue particles generated during the step of ablating the ectopic foci.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the step of providing a percutaneous guidance catheter system includes the step of providing an aspiration system with an operable end proximate the end of the elongate member, and further comprising the step of aspirating the necrosed tissue particles.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the aspiration system includes a second lumen in the elongate member.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of positioning the therapeutic catheter.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of position the therapeutic catheter is separate from the step of positioning the ~~filter~~ expandable filtration assembly.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the step of positioning the therapeutic catheter is subsequent to the step of expanding the filter.

56. (New) The system of claim 37 wherein the distal end of the elongate member is free from any attachments.

57. (New) The system of claim 37 wherein the expandable filtration mechanism has a length and wherein the distal end of the elongate member extends distally beyond where the expandable filtration mechanism is attached to the elongate member for a length of at least 25% of the length of the expandable filtration mechanism.

58. (New) The system of claim 38 wherein the expandable filtration mechanism has a length and wherein the distal end of the elongate member extends distally beyond where the expandable filtration mechanism is attached to the elongate member for a length of at least 50% of the length of the expandable filtration mechanism.